

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:652
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
TELECOM SECTOR
ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to deregulate telecom sector in the country in order to introduce competition and making communication affordable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to establish world class telecommunication infrastructure in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Availability of affordable and effective communications for the citizens is at the core of the vision and goal of New Telecom Policy (NTP-99). NTP-99 also envisages transforming, in a time bound manner, the telecommunication Sector to a greater competitive environment in both urban and rural areas providing equal opportunities and level playing fields for all players. All the telecom services within the country namely, Basic, Cellular Mobile, Radio Paging, Internet, Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Voice Mail, National Long Distance (NLD), global mobile personal communication Service (GMPCS) and Public Mobile Radi Trunking Service (PMRTS) have been opened up for private participation.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to establish world class telecommunication infrastructure in the country.

(i) There is no restriction on the number of operators in Telecom Services such as Basic, Internet, VSAT, Voice Mail, NLD and GMPCS. The number of operators are restricted in telecom services such as Cellular Mobile where there is limitation of resource like frequency spectrum.

(ii) Under National Long Distance Policy, there are two categories of Infrastructure Providers (IP) namely IP-I and IP-II. IP-I can provide assets such as dark fibres, right of way, duct space etc. and IP-II can provide end to end bandwidth.

(iii) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to set up International Gateways for Internet using satellite and submarine cable medium after getting security clearance. ISPs setting up International Gateways for Internet have been permitted to sell bandwidth to other ISPs.

(iv) A bandwidth Advisory Committee consisting of eminent personalities of the IT and Telecom Industry has been set up to advise Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on the steps to be taken to ensure that bandwidth is available on demand.